

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process for producing metal-matrix composite materials comprising at least one portion of magnesium or of a magnesium alloy and at least one production step in which thixomolding takes place, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a Mg_2Si phase with a volumetric content of at least 2% is dispersed into the metal matrix.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal matrix comprises magnesium or a magnesium alloy.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a granulate of silicon or a silicon alloy and a granulate of magnesium or of a magnesium alloy are processed jointly in a thixomolding process.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 3, wherein the amount and/or the size of the Mg_2Si phase crystallites which form and/or ~~the~~ a silicon content of ~~the~~ a composite material are determined via the size and/or the amount of the particles of silicon or of the silicon alloy.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein in the thixomolding process the cast body is produced from the metal-matrix composite material which is then further processed.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the cast body is formed from the metal-matrix composite material subsequently in at least one process step.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the cast body is formed from the metal-matrix composite material subsequently in at least one forging process and/or extrusion process.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein in the production of the composite material addition of at least roughly 2% by weight Si and at most roughly 15% by weight Si takes place.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein a Mg_2Si phase with a volumetric content of at least roughly 5% to roughly at most roughly 40% is dispersed into a metal matrix.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein in the production of metal-matrix composite material one of the standard magnesium alloys AZ91, AM50, MR1230D, MR1253M or a magnesium die casting alloy is used.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein after adding Si the heating rate of the thixomolding device is reduced when the melt first forms.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Metal-matrix~~ A metal-matrix composite material, wherein it was produced according to a process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Component~~ A component for a motor vehicle, wherein it comprises at least one metal-matrix composite material which was produced according to a process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a~~ A metal-matrix composite material as claimed in claim 12 is used for producing engine parts, ~~especially~~ pistons, bushings for shafts, cylinders, or other rotationally symmetrical components or brake disks for motor vehicles.